

Public-Office, Bow-Street, Covent-Garden.

THE
PUBLIC HUE and CRY;
OR,

Sir John Fielding's General Preventive Plan.

S E N T

To the Mayors and Chief Officers of Corporations, the Acting Magistrates in the Counties at large, and the Keepers of every County Gaol throughout England.

From FRIDAY, APRIL 29, to FRIDAY, MAY 13, 1774.

[N^o. 10]

The DESIGN of this UNDERTAKING.

TO prevent Offences, and thereby save the Lives of many of his Majesty's Subjects by the speedy Detection of Criminals. To check the mischievous Effects of Luxury, and raise an Attention, if possible, to a due Subordination by seasonable Persuasions, conveyed in Essays on Human Life. To advance the Rewards of the Ingenious by exhibiting their authenticated Merits to the Public, To state existing Evils that affect the Peace and good Order of Society, to trace them to their Sources, and point out the Remedies. And as this public spirited Plan is honoured by Royal Countenance, from Sentiments of the highest Benevolence, and is carried into Execution on the most disinterested Principles by the Editor of this Paper, to whom no possible Gain can arise, except that immense one of deserving well of his Country; it has the fairest Claim to the Approbation of the Worthy, the Assistance of the Able, and the Candour of all his Majesty's well-disposed Subjects.

J. FIELDING.

P. S. All Essays for the Hue and Cry are desired to be directed to Bow-Street.

STOLEN from Twickenham, in Middlesex, the 8th of May, a Bay Filly, three Years old; fourteen Hands and a half high, four black Legs, a Blaze in her Face, and a long Tail. Two Guineas Reward are offered by the Owner. Give Notice to the above Office.

STOLEN from Martlesham, near Woodbridge, the 8th Instant, a Black Mare, rising five Years old, about fourteen hands high, a little White part way down her Face, has been both nicked and docked since Christmas; has lately had the stranglings, which have left a small Knot under her Throat; has some White on her off Foot behind, very small boned, her Tail set on rather low, is long backed, has been lately bled. Five Guineas Reward are offered by the Owner. Give Notice to the above Office, or to Mr. William Groom, at Martlesham, near Woodbridge, in Suffolk.

STOLEN from Allesley, near Coventry, a Light Orange Bay Mare, five Years old this Grass, about fifteen Hands high, bald Face, black Mane, her Tail sprigg'd if not altered, white Legs behind, the off Leg before white, the Near black, is high bred, and goes remarkably well. Two Guineas Reward and reasonable Charges are offered by the Owner if strayed, and if stolen Three Guineas Reward, over and above what is allowed by Act of Parliament. Give Notice to the above Office, or to George Barnes, at Allesley aforesaid.

N. B. A Bridle and Saddle were stolen with the Mare.

STOLEN or strayed, out of a Field near Guildford in Surry, the 16th instant, a bright Bay Mare, of the Saddle Kind, nine Years old, about fourteen Hands three Inches high, a pretty large Blaze down her Face, shews the white of her near Eye much more than in the other, a swish Tail, her near Fetlock behind white, the Hair of her Fetlocks a little rubbed off by wearing a Chain, which she had on when lost, her Shoes marked E in a Star. Three Guineas Reward, and reasonable Charges are offered, if strayed; and if stolen, Ten Guineas, on Conviction of the Offender. Give Notice to the above Office, or to William and Henry Parson at Guildford.

STOLEN or Strayed, out of the Grounds of Mr. Joseph Cunstable, at South-End, in Kent, on Tuesday the 26th of April, 1774, a Bay Gelding, near fifteen Hands high; had a swish Tail and rough Mane, which has been cut on the off Side, but is grown near as long as the other, with some grey Hairs in it; one white Heel behind, a white Nose on the off Side half way to his Eyes, and is a remarkable good moulded Gelding, but rough from Grass. If stolen,

on Conviction, shall receive Five Guineas Reward; if strayed, Two Guineas, by applying to the above, or to Thomas Stambler, at the Yorkshire Grey, in Blackman-Street, Southwark, or at the Public-Office, Bow-Street.

STOPT the 22d of April, supposed to be stolen, a Bay Mare, five Years old, fourteen Hands three Inches high, bald Face, the under Lip white, a swish Tail, and three white Legs. The Owner is desired to enquire at the above Office, or at the White Lion at Kitt's Inn, near Barnet.

ESCAPED from JUSTICE.

WILLIAM WAPLES, a Gardener, five Feet eight Inches high, stout and bulky, thin Face, soft Eyes, club Wig, brown Cloaths and Buttons; charged with a capital Offence; born at Husband Boreworth, Leicestershire. Five Guineas Reward on Commitment. Give Notice to the above Office.

BROKE open the 5th Instant, the Parish Church of Bowden, in Cheshire, and stolen, two large silver Flag-gons, holding upwards of three Wine Quarts, two silver Cups, two silver Salvers, one larger than the other, all double gilt, and engraved underneath, "The Gift of Oliver Bellfontaine, Gent." Twenty Guineas Reward are offered by the Churchwardens. Give Notice to the above Office, or to the Church-Wardens of Bowden, near Altrincham, Cheshire.

N. B. As the Robbing of Churches is become very frequent, many of them being at a Distance from any Dwelling-House, it would be advisable to remove Things of Value to the Houses of the Clergymen or Church Wardens.

WHEREAS the House of Mr. John Banks, of Nazeing, Essex, Farmer, was attacked about One in the Morning of the 8th of April last, by three Men, who attempted to break open the same, by threatening to take away the Life of the said John Banks, obliged him to give them a considerable Sum of Money; and the same Men, on the 24th of April last, about Eleven at Night, again attempted to break open the said House, but being repulsed went off. Whoever will discover the Offenders, or any of them, so that he or they may be brought to Justice, shall, besides the Reward given by Act of Parliament, receive the Sum of Twenty Pounds from the Inhabitants of the said Parish of Nazeing, to be paid on Conviction by me

John Jessopp, Waltham Abbey, Essex.

N. B. If any one of the Offenders will surrender himself, and give Information of his Accomplices, he shall, on Conviction, receive the like Reward.



TO the EDITOR of the PUBLIC HUE AND CRY.

S I R,

HAVING lately endeavoured to point out some of the deadly mischiefs arising to society from the want of economy in persons of the first rank, I shall now proceed, agreeable to my promise, to make some observations on the evils arising from the want of this private virtue in the middle and lower orders of people. It has often been said, and as I think with much truth, that our superiors are too apt to consider themselves as above the law, and our inferiors as below it.—*De minimis non curat lex.*—And that virtue, decency, example, moderation, and happiness, are to be met with in the middle rank only; indeed, it is from this respectable body that we derive our Senators, Magistrates, Clergy, Physicians, Lawyers, Merchants, all stations of great trust in society; and in any of which the want of sound principles of virtue and strict integrity must prove fatal to themselves and to the community; nor can these be obtained or secured without an exact regard to economy; for distress and venality are almost inseparable associates. When I behold a Senator regardless of private property, and launching into expences beyond his income, and at the same time consider the nature and importance of his public trust, I tremble for my country's welfare. Good God! what language can express the consequences of a prostitution of this kind, as one single vote may involve thousands in misery; the paternal estate mortgaged; the old family mansion dropping by piece meal into ruins, hospitality turned out of doors, servants on board wages, the owner fled to London; and skulking now and then into the country to meet, not his Steward, but the keen Mortgagee, or his Attorney, to pay into his voracious hands that rent which used to make his chimney smoke, and the hearts of his neighbours glad for the interest of money borrowed. Shocking change! An example lost!—A family ruined! An extravagant or an abandoned Magistrate must forget his oath of office, fully justice, and disappoint the injured of redress; the merchant without economy, deprives the manufacturer and labourer of the wages he has earned by the sweat of his brow, he debases his commodities, disgraces foreign markets, and, from want of punctuality, injures the credit and trade of his country at home and abroad; the distressed clergyman when he sinks into meanness and dishonesty, from principles of extravagance, and a neglect of economy, cuts off the influence of example, defeats the powers of precept, loses the confidence of his hearers, dishonours his profession, insults his God, and becomes a real injury to religion; the spendthrift physician writes for the apothecary, procrastinates your cure, injures your constitution, shortens your days, and renders life miserable; the needy lawyer, made so from dissipation and excess, leads you into expensive and unsuccessful suits, merely for the sake of making a bill, advises you to purchase where he knows the title is fallacious, recommends you to lend your money where the security is precarious, and by taking fees on both sides deceives, disappoints, and ruins his clients. Thus do the distresses of mankind, from want of economy, induce them to betray their trusts, dishonour their natures, render themselves miserable, and to become mischievous to society. Awake my dear countrymen from this dream; let not your pride and vanity induce you to imitate your superiors at an expence your income cannot bear: hasten to your accounts, examine your incomes, compare them with your expences, and live within bounds, improve your domestick pleasures, avoid expensive ones, and let your families partake of the benefits of honest gains. The farmer, the useful member of society, the moment he turns his back upon economy, care, and industry, lets immorality, misery, and want into his doors, he commits waste on the estate he rents, beggars the land by robbing it of manure, deceives at market by false samples, purchases without paying, borrows without returning, and fills up the measure of his iniquity by falsehoods, tricking, and negligence. As to the lower order of mankind, they move in a narrower sphere still, small neglects and irregularities are sufficient to make them feel the dreadful effects of want. To the labourer and mechanic's his time is of as much consequence as his money;

in these stations there is no room for extravagance, no plea for idleness; drunkenness is the source of most of their miseries, and when once they are in debt, despairing to satisfy their creditors, they lose sight of the principles of integrity, and grow indifferent to character; thus corrupted, and thus abandoned, they are prepared for the practice of vice, and as their superiors endeavour by fraud and deceit to supply the wants which their excesses have occasioned, the lower order have recourse to violence, rapine, and plunder, and numbers of the most useful members of society become victims to the law, and lose that life with industry which they might have preserved with comfort by labour and industry; from this one great cause, viz. "The want of economy," flow the various mischiefs and miseries which appear at this time in every part of this kingdom, and unless a sense of religion be enforced by those whose duty it is to perform this task, unless our superiors afford examples worthy of imitation to those below them; and unless the common people change their manners and become more obedient to the laws of their country, anarchy and confusion cannot be at a very great distance. SENEX.

OXFORDSHIRE.

At the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, holden at Oxford, in and for the County of Oxford, on Tuesday in the first week next after the close of Easter, in the fourteenth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the Grace of God of Great-Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, &c. before Francis Burton, and — Penystone, Esquires, Thomas Fothergill, D.D. Vice-Chancellor, William Lenthall, Esq. William Harrison, D.D. the Rev. Just. Alr, the Rev. John Jones, James Lamb, Esq. Thomas Bray, D.D. Sir John Peshall, Bart. Thomas Blackall, Esq. and others their Fellows, Justices of our said Sovereign Lord the King, assigned to keep the Peace of our said Lord the King, within the County aforesaid, and also to hear and determine divers Felonies, Trespasses, and other Misdemeanors, within the said County done and committed, the following Orders were made, viz.

"ORDERED,

THAT the prohibition and other regulations relating to Bread, contained in the Order made at the last Quarter Sessions held for this County, be continued for three months, to commence from the 13th of May next ensuing; and that the several Justices of the Peace, in their respective Divisions, be earnestly requested to insist upon the making and selling Priced Bread, that is to say, Peck, Half Peck, Quarter, and Half Quarter Loaves, except only as in the said Order is excepted."

"ORDERED, That the Chief Constables and Petty Constables of the several Hundreds and Parishes in this County, be very diligent in bringing to Justice all Keepers of disorderly Ale-houses, and other Public-Houses, whether licensed or unlicensed; and for that purpose, from time to time, to cause the said Keepers thereof to appear before some or one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace of this County, to the intent they may be proceeded against as the law directs, and that the expence of such prosecution (if thought necessary, and directed by such Justice) be carried on at the expence of this County. By Order of the Court,

TAUNTON, Deputy Clerk of the Peace.

From the LONDON GAZETTE, May 7.

St. James's, May 6.

THIS day their Majesties, his Royal Highness George Prince of Wales, his Royal Highness Prince Frederick, and their Royal Highnesses the Princess and Princesses, removed to Kew, to reside there during the summer.

St. James's, May 7. The King has been pleased to grant unto Arthur Harrington, son of Richard Harrington, of Powderham in the county of Devon, Clerk, his royal licence to use the Surname of Champenowne, and also to bear the arms of Champenowne.

Paris, May 2. On Thursday last his Most Christian Majesty was taken dangerously ill, and on Saturday morning early the distemper shewed itself to be the Small-Pox. His Majesty rested well last night; and at present there does not appear any unfavourable symptom.

MONDAY, May 9.
L O N D O N.

A letter from the Lower Rhine, April 29, says, "Advices from Germany remark, that two principal points are at present on the carpet in that empire; the first is, the uniting the three authorized religions of the country in one and the same footing; and the other is the reducing all the money of Germany from twenty-four to twenty florins per mark of fine silver.

Letters from Berne in Switzerland, dated the 29th ult. advise, that on the 17th, early in the morning, there was felt there a most violent earthquake, accompanied with violent thunder; the former of which lasted four or five seconds, in which all the turrets and chimnies in the place were thrown down. These letters add, that before the above they had very fine weather; but since it had changed, and they had a very deep snow.

Letter from Piedmont make mention of great warlike preparations going forward throughout all the dominions of his Sardinian Majesty; vast numbers of deserters have returned in consequence of the amnesty published, and have joined their several regiments; all the fortifications are repairing; and the magazines filling; for which purpose his Majesty has purchased 50,000 sacks of grain.

The Dutch, though they make no great noise or shew, are as busy in making warlike preparations by sea and land, as any of our continental neighbours. It is plain something is expected, and every power is zealous to be as ready for a rupture as possible.

A letter from Holland says, as we have no claims on our allies, nor they on us, but what negotiations may accommodate, we go on as usual slowly engrossing and monopolizing.

Yesterday their Majesties, escorted by a party of horse grenadiers, came together in their chaise from Kew to St. James's.

The same day the Rev. Dr. Fawcett preached before their Majesties at the Chapel Royal St. James's.

The Sword of State was carried by the Earl of Oxford.

After their Majesties returned from Chapel, there was a Court and Drawing-room at St. James's.

Yesterday the Earl of Pembroke went into waiting as one of the Lords of the Bedchamber to his Majesty, in the room of the Earl of Denbigh.

On Saturday the Duke and Duchess of Cumberland arrived in perfect health at Windsor-Lodge from their tour to Italy, &c.

Orders are given for a number of shipwrights to be draughted off from their different dock-yards, to be sent to Gibraltar and Minorca, in order to repair such of his Majesty's ships as want repairing.

By a letter just received from an officer on board of a ship belonging to Sir Peter Dennis's Squadron, we are informed, that a Russian man of war has had an engagement with two Spanish frigates in the Mediterranean, which lasted three glasses, when one of the frigates was sunk, and a great part of the crew perished; the other, on seeing the fate of her consort, steered off in a shattered condition, having lost her fore and main top-masts, and a great number of men.

Extract of a letter from Capt. Bartlet, arrived off Holy Island from Greenland, dated May 1.

"I am late arrived here from Greenland, after a short and very successful voyage. I have caught 7500 seals, and filled our casks with blubber. I spoke with several English and Dutch ships, who have had good success."

We hear the Greenland Fishery is likely to be very successful this year, near double the number of vessels having been fitted out, and the accounts from them very favourable.

His Majesty's new ship Roebuck, lately launched at Chatham, is ordered to be rigged and manned for Channel service.

The Mounthorne, Capt. Smith, from Granada to London, that put into Limerick some time ago, is gone to pieces, but part of the cargo is saved, and there are hopes of saving the rest.

Saturday evening a broad wheel waggon coming through Hackney, and a child of about six years of age being in the road, about which time the horses being startled by something in the road, the driver was not able to stop them, so that the wheels of the waggon went over the child's head, which bruised it in a shocking manner, and the child immediately expired.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. MONDAY.

Proceedings on the GOLD COIN.

MR. Chamberlain, Solicitor to the Mint, and the other persons from that office, mentioned in our last, informed the House that the practice of filing the gold coin to such a degree as had lately been known, began (under their knowledge) in 1757, when one Wood was convicted and executed in 1758, who had partners in his business, and carried on an immense trade. He circulated one hundred thousand pounds a year, and made immense profits, living in a very expensive manner. In succeeding years the practice went on, particularly in Yorkshire, where Mr. Chamberlain found many guineas wanting 5s. 3d. and 5s. 4d. of weight; and all he saw, on an average, from 2s. 6d. to 4s. 6d. that there were near Wakefield private mints, so situated that no person could come near them without being seen at half a mile's distance; that one of these mint masters was executed; that other delinquents were also taken and executed; one of whom, as appeared by his papers, made a thousand pounds a year, and a clerk of the bank, whose gains this way was immense; that there was no possibility of coining in any manner that would prevent these practices; that weighing was alone the method to stop it, and that since the act of last sessions not one information had been received; and in Yorkshire the practice stopped instantaneously. That the quantity of money cut was 3,400,000l. and that the average deficiency was nine per cent. that the Mint coined 15,000l. a day, and delivered 91,000l. a week at the Bank. That the gold of this country was under-rated on comparison with Portugal, and over-rated on comparison with Holland; that the proportions were,

Portugal,	1 to 16½
Spain,	1 to 16
Britain,	1 to 15½
Holland,	1 to 14½
France,	1 to 14

That the Mint will not admit of quicker coining, the buildings used in the great coinage in the reign of King William being converted into barracks; that silver took as long coining as gold, and that the two coinages could not go on together.

Lord North. Sir Charles Whitworth, from the evidence just heard at the bar it appears very evidently to what an amazing extent the practice of diminishing the coin had gone; it also appears, that where the profit is so immense, and the danger of discovery so small, that penalties, though of life, and every other means that can be taken, are insufficient to remedy the evil; men will not be deterred. But that the act passed last sessions has put an entire stop to it. It is with satisfaction that I find, and have found, an act so severely animadverted upon has so well answered its great purpose. It has saved the nation in the first instance the sum of 9 per cent. on 3,400,000l. or about 300,000l. and it has laid that loss on the holders of the light gold. Had Parliament given a compensation as in King William's reign, instead of 300,000l. you would have found the loss nearer three millions, as the certainty of compensation would have set the files to work at a fine rate. Thus of above two millions lost in the great recoinage, one was calculated to be paid to frauds alone. But, Sir, as the compensation, or throwing the deficiency on the holder is in either case a tax, the latter was chosen as the most equitable, it had every merit of a tax, being like the land-tax, a fair tax on possessions; like duties on consumption, it was proportioned to circulation, and had the advantage, that no profit could be made on it by a middle man.

Sir, the business at present before us naturally divides itself into two questions; first, how to bring our gold currency to a proper state, and secondly how to preserve it in that state; these I shall with the permission of the committee consider; but first I must premise that the state of the silver coin has not been overlooked, it must and shall be attended to, but it is impossible to be done now, the two coinages cannot go on together, there are two invincible reasons against it, there are not assay masters, workmen, conveniences, nor experience, and taking both gold and silver at once of circulation, would be attended with extreme dangerous consequences. I must also premise, Sir, that the proportion between gold and silver, which at present is in such confusion,

shall also be attended to; I am sensible that silver is and ought to be the standard, and that it either is to be left to find its own value, it ought to be the gold in my own opinion, but I merely hint the idea, I think the best way of doing it would be crying down the guineas.

Now Sir, as to bringing the gold currency to the due weight, the proposal shall lay before the committee to come to resolutions on, and to stand over to next sessions, it is to call in all guineas lighter than 5 pennyweights 8 grains, and to give a compensation to the holders in proportion to the deficiency, but only to a certain degree; this compensation may amount to 250,000l. and I think it is but justice to the public to make it. I think it is a very different case from the operation of the act of last sessions, because it depended entirely upon the individual to take care what money he received; but when the necessary regulation of the treasury, for their own servants, appointing what guineas should be taken and what cut, had been received by the public so universally as the law of *reasonable wear*, (the only expression of the act) they were led into taking light money as they thought under the sanction of law, the case therefore is extremely different from the former instance.

With regard, Sir, to preserving guineas of a due weight when we have got them so, I shall propose that the legal weight shall be 5 pennyweights 8 grains, which is allowing better than 1 grain for wear, after that all guineas deficient to be made good by the holder, every one making compensation for the deficiency of his guinea to the person to whom he pays it, but under 5 pennyweights 3 grains to order them to be cut; in a word weights and scales are now familiar to every body from the Bank at the head of circulation, to the hostler who changes your horses on the road, and it is ought to be our business to keep them so, since weighing is the best principle of money. This plan will prevent all future general coinages, and all compensations, no immaterial advantages. Next, Sir, that accuracy may be spread every where in weighing, I shall propose an office to be established at the Mint, to fix the standard weights, and to prohibit all but what are sealed by him as true to the standard.

TUESDAY, May 10.

L O N D O N.

Yesterday morning his Majesty, with four of the young Princes, passed over Westminster-bridge, in their way to Blackheath, to review Elliot's and Burgoyne's light-horse; when they went through their manoeuvres with the greatest exactness, to the general satisfaction of his Majesty, as well as honour to the officers who commanded them. There was the greatest number of spectators ever known on the like occasion, and among them many persons of the first distinction.

A scheme is in agitation for raising 500,000l. annually, for the service of government in case of a war, without any further burthens being imposed on the public. This is to be effected by parceling out the royal chaces, and forest lands belonging to the crown into small lots, to be let to farmers and graziers: this, if well planned and executed will be of great public utility, and equal to what is proposed.

Yesterday morning Lord Chief Justice De Grey sat to hear *Nisi Prius* causes in the Court of Common Pleas, being the last sitting in this Term.

Saturday the adjourned argument of Beckford against Beckford, from a decree of the Master of the Rolls, came on again by way of rehearing before the Lord Chancellor at Westminster. After the counsel had been fully heard, Mr. Justice Alton gave his opinion in favour of the decree, as did Mr. Baron Perrot. The Chancellor then spoke for some time, and likewise declared his opinion in favour of the decree of the Master of the Rolls: the same was then by order of the court affirmed.

On Friday was argued in the Court of King's Bench the case of Campbell and Hall, respecting the power of the Crown and Levy Judges in the island of Grenades. A question of great importance to the parties and to the public.

The latest advices from Ireland give accounts, that the nobility and gentry, landholders in that kingdom, have come to the laudable resolution of lowering their rents, to let no lease for more than 21 years, and further to make divisions of all the large farms, so that no private person may hold more than 150l. sterling per annum.

Letters from Elfinore mention, that the *Stiff-toss*, Capt. Beshentzoff, of sixty-four guns, and a great number of men, was lately lost in a violent storm near the Sound, and every person on board perished.

The Latham East-Indiaman, Capt. Prince, which arrived on Thursday last off Falmouth, left the Duke of Kingston, Capt. Snow, at St. Helena, who was to sail in a few days.

On the 4th inst. sailed from Plymouth, his Majesty's ships the *Aldborough* and *Rose*, for Newfoundland.

The Countess of Huntingdon is going to build a Chapel in the Mulberry-garden, at Wapping. She has lately opened one which had been some time shut up, in the Little Almonry.

The Lord Bishop of Norwich has appointed Tuesday the 17th of May for a confirmation in Westminster Abbey of all such persons belonging to the two parishes of St. Margaret, and St. John the Evangelist, Westminster, as are of the age of fourteen years and upwards.

The Rev. Thomas Dade, A. B. Chaplain to the Right Hon. Lord Ducie, is presented to the Rectory of Middleton, in Juddale, in the county of Durham, by the Earl of Darlington.

On Saturday the Inquest of Alderagate Ward went out privately, and detected a woman selling milk with short measures; and yesterday she was summoned before the Lord Mayor, when his Lordship ordered all her measures to be broken to pieces; but, upon some of the Inquest giving her a good character, she was dismissed without paying the fine, on her promise not to be guilty of the like offence again. His Lordship gave orders to his officers to take all milk people into custody who make use of measures unstamped; that they may be dealt with according to law.

Yesterday three men went about the streets with drums beating and trumpets playing, and gave notice, that a play would that night be acted a public-house in this city; when some officers carried one of them before the Sitting Alderman at Guildhall, who committed him to Bridewell as a vagrant. The other two escaped.

There is now living at Bromley, near Bow in Middlesex, three maiden women, sisters, whose ages put together make 243 years, and some months. They are all in perfect health, and get a livelihood by spinning and knitting, which they have followed many years.

Saturday afternoon as a gentleman, his lady, and niece were going to Greenwich with a pair of oars, they ran foul of a lighter, by which accident the gentleman and lady were drowned; and had it not been for the nephew of Mr. Elphe, who keeps the White Swan at Blackfriars Bridge, the niece must also have been lost, but providentially her life was spared by his jumping into the water, catching hold of her, and swimming with her to shore.

The late dreadful fire in King-street, Covent-garden, has been so truly alarming, that hand-bills are circulated among the servants at the west end of the town, cautioning them to be careful in extinguishing their candle, &c. before they go to bed, and reciting a clause in an act of parliament of Queen Ann, which enacts, "If any servant through negligence sets fire to any dwelling house, out house, &c. they are liable to a penalty of 100l. and if not able to pay that sum, to be sent to the house of correction for two years to hard labour."

Thursday morning as some workmen were entering an empty house near Hoxton, in order to begin repairing it, they discovered a man hanging on his knees, the body black and swelled, and covered with maggots; supposed to have been there two or three months. He was known to have been a Watch-maker near Bishopsgate-street.

On Saturday night a young gentleman, heir to a large estate in the West-Indies, shot himself through the head at the house of a Sheriff's Officer near Exeter-Change. He left a paper behind him, declaring the step he had taken proceeded from the ill treatment of those who were called his friends.

On Saturday the flooring of a loft at Mr. Disher's, Oilman, in Tottenham-Court-Road, in which two men were at work grinding colours, gave way, and came to the ground, by which accident one man was killed, and the other is so much hurt that his life is despaired of.

On Sunday afternoon a man bathing in a pond near Maiden-lane, Battie-bridge, was seized with the cramp, and taken out alive, but expired soon after.

WEDNESDAY, May 11.
LONDON.

Some private letters from Stockholm mention, that the Russian Ambassador had lately made a very extra demand on the Senate of Sweden, in the name of his Sovereign, which had caused some consternation; advices thereof were sent off to Berlin and Versailles, and though the particulars thereof were not known, it was feared some disagreeable terms must take place between the two Courts.

Yesterday the Prince of Wales, the Bishop of Osnaburg, Prince William Henry, the Princess Royal, and Prince Edward, dined with the Princess Amelia at Gunterbury-House.

Four Spanish ships, richly laden, are daily expected at Cadiz from Lima, which port they left in December last. Peruvian bark was so scarce when the above vessels left that part of South America, that not above 1000 chests were shipped, whereas they have usually brought home double that quantity.

Extract of a letter from Memel, dated April 24.
"I arrived here the 18th instant, and found the bar so bad, that I shall be obliged to load full one third of my cargo in the road. Being a light ship, I went in very well; but upon my going in my boat to sound the bar, according to my usual custom, I found but thirteen feet and a half water. There are many English ships arrived, four of which are for London, the rest for Ireland, and the North and West parts of England, Scotland, &c. and though several are loading grain, there is not timber for the rest, and many must wait till the new comes down, which will not be till the month of June. I shall be ready for the road in two or three days, when I shall write to you again, as also upon my arrival at Liverpool."

On Friday last came on in the Court of King's Bench, Westminster, an enquiry into the legality of levying duties in the island of Grenada, by the sole power of the prerogative. The cause of action was brought by Mr. Campbell, a planter in the island; and the question was, Whether the levying an impost of four and a half per cent. on all dead commodities (as has been the case since the year 1764) by prerogative, was legal, or not? The counsel for the plaintiff was Mr. Macdonald, who observed, that all conquered countries should be subject to their own laws, till such time as the legislation of that country who conquered them had made others for them; that this island being conquered by England, consequently could not be bound by any other power in respect to their taxes, but by their representatives; that this was a known and fundamental law, established from the first institution of tallage, down to the Bill of Rights. He quoted many precedents of the stretches of arbitrary power and prerogative in former reigns, and among the rest did not forget the imposition of ship-money. Mr. Hargrave, counsel for the defendant, answered him, by quoting many precedents in favour of the prerogative, some of which were in the reign of James II. After which the farther arguments in this cause, in which the Attorney General is to be heard, were postponed to a future day.

On Monday the Barons of the Court of Exchequer, after a hearing of four days, finally determined the cause which had been some years depending, wherein the Attorney-General, on behalf of his Majesty, was informant, and Daniel Fox, Esq. Lord of the Manor of Sandhurst, in Windsor Forest, was defendant, when the Court declared the right of soil in the waste lands of the manor to be the property of the defendant: and with regard to the important question of jurisdiction, the Barons were unanimously of opinion, that the Court of Exchequer, as a Court of Equity, or a Court of Revenue, could not interpose to carry the forest laws into execution, and therefore dismissed the information. The counsel for the Crown were Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Solicitor-General, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Popham, Mr. Heath, and Mr. Willmot. For the defendant, Mr. Skynner, Mr. Dunning, Mr. Madocks, and Mr. Kenyon.

Yesterday green peas sold at Covent-Garden for half a guinea a pottle in the shells, and strawberries at half a crown the gill.

The same day five guineas were given for a pottle of fine cherries by a Nobleman of high rank, for a present to her Majesty.

THURSDAY, May 12.
LONDON.

Yesterday there was a levee at St. James's, at which the principal officers of state, &c. were present.

After the levee was up, a council was held at St. James's, at which the Right Hon. Lord North, Lord Viscount Townshend, &c. assisted.

Yesterday the Provost of Ireland was introduced to his Majesty at St. James's by the Hon. Mr. Rigby.

The same day Mr. Gordon, lately arrived in town from Brussels, attended the levee at St. James's.

The same day the Duke of Gordon, and Lord Gordon his brother, attended the levee at St. James's.

Tuesday commissions passed the Great Seal, authorizing and empowering Simon Earl Harcourt, his Majesty's Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland, to give the Royal Assent to an Act for regulating the assising, apportioning, and levying money in the county and city of Dublin. — To five bills for repairing roads from Dublin and Cork, and in the counties of Kerry, Limerick, Armagh, &c. And to two private bills.

Some regiments are soon to embark for Gibraltar and Minorca, to relieve such as have been there the proper time.

According to advices from Gibraltar, the Porte have offered a premium in proportion to the number of guns, for every vessel fitted out by the Barbary powers to cruise against the Russians in the Archipelago and Levant; in consequence of which it is expected the Russian navy will meet with more opponents than they have ever yet expected or thought of.

On Monday next the King's Regiment of Dragoon Guards, commanded by Lieut. Gen. Moltyn, and the Inniskilling Dragoons, commanded by Gen. Cholmondeley, will be reviewed by his Majesty on Wimbledon Common, previous to which they are to be reviewed by Major Gen. Preston to-morrow.

By a letter from Edinburgh we are informed, that in the course of last week the following melancholy affair happened in the suburbs of that city:—A family of five persons, viz. a man and his wife, with their two sons and a servant girl, who formerly had a farm in the North, but their tack being out, could neither get a renewal of it, nor another farm, without a considerable increase of rent, had disposed of their stock, and went on board the Batchelor, Captain Ramage, (who arrived at Leith last week) with an intention of emigrating to America. Finding the ship disagreeable, on account of such a number on board, they came up to town, and took a room in an uninhabited house at the head of the Pleasance on Tuesday night, till the ship should be ready to proceed on her voyage. Having put a large fire on the hearth, and eat their supper, four of them went to bed in the room, but one of the sons luckily went into another room where there was no fire, by which he saved his life; for upon his awaking in the morning, and coming in, he found his mother and servant girl both dead, and his father and brother speechless; his brother died the same day, and the father on Thursday. They were all decently interred yesterday. The cause of this melancholy accident is attributed to sulphurous coals, the smoke of which, in a close room, has been often productive of the like dismal consequences.

We hear, that on Saturday the 30th of April, a person was defrauded at Sawbridge-worth fair in Herts of a grey stone horse, by a sharper, who gave him a draught upon a person in London who is not to be found. As numbers of sharpeners are now infesting all parts of the country, people cannot be too cautious what bills or notes they take.

Committed from from the Public Office in Bow-street during the last fortnight:

William Garment, for robbing John Francis on the highway, near Acton, in Middlesex, of 19s. 6d. in money; Ann Stevenson, for stealing apparel and plate, the property of Margaret Caton; William Jones, for stealing great quantities of linen, &c. from his master Felix Smith, a Linen-Draper; and Richard Lewis, for receiving part of the linen, knowing it to be stolen.

Committed during the last fortnight.

To Chester Gaol, Richard Fletcher, for felony; he is an Irishman, and a silk-weaver. Peter Easton, for robbing the parish church of Over; he is a labourer, and was born in Cheshire. Richard Richards, alias Powell, for horse-stealing; he is a Welchman, about fifty years of age. Thomas Smith, for felony, born at Newbury near Uttoxeter, aged thirty-three, a livery lace-weaver, five feet ten inches high.

To Chelmsford Gaol, John Dixon, for murder; he is a chimney-sweeper, forty-two years of age, five feet six inches high, born in White-chapel. Michael Molloy, John Ward, William Green, John Titmash, and Henry Butcher, for divers felonies. Molloy is an Irishman, forty-eight years old, five feet nine inches high. Ward is a blacksmith, born in Staffordshire, aged forty-five, and five feet eight inches high. Green is a labourer, was born in Suffolk, aged forty-two, five feet five inches high. Titmash is a labourer, born in Essex, aged forty, five feet seven inches high. Butcher is a labourer, born in Suffolk, aged forty, five feet eight inches high.

To Salisbury Gaol, Ann Watson, for felony, aged sixteen, born at Trowbridge. Thomas Wise, for felony, aged thirty-three, born at Gillingham in Dorsetshire, five feet nine inches high.

To Warwick Gaol, Thomas Gilbert, for forgery; he is a Spaniard, aged twenty-nine, five feet six inches high. John Salmon, for horse-stealing, aged twenty-four, born at Wroxton in Oxfordshire, five feet five inches high. John Poynton, for felony, aged fifty-three, five feet five inches high, born at Widdenbury in Cheshire. William Palin, for felony, born at Stoke in Shropshire; five feet six inches high, thirty-eight years old, has been at sea.

To Worcester Gaol, Samuel Silvers, for burglary, five feet five inches high. Jude Moore, for fraud, six feet high, well built. Joseph Whitehouse, for felony, five feet five inches high.

To Lancaster Gaol, Thomas Leigh, for felony, born at Stockport, aged forty, five feet eight inches high. Joseph Diggle, for returning from transportation before his time; he was born at Middle near Manchester. Elizabeth Scholfield the elder, and Elizabeth Scholfield the younger, for murdering a bastard child.

To Nottingham Gaol, Henry Haddon, for housebreaking, aged twenty-nine, five feet seven inches high, comes from Horley in Derbyshire, by trade a nail-maker. James Stewart, for felony, aged twenty-eight, five feet eight inches high, comes from Brayfield in Herts.

OBSERVATION.

If the Keepers of the County Gaols continue punctually to make a weekly return to the above office of the names and descriptions of the offenders committed to their charge, it must be the means of recovering many prisoners that have broke Gaol, and of detecting many notorious criminals who have committed offences in the counties from whence they have escaped; and if the Post-Masters in the different parts of England pay an exact attention to the directions they have received from the Hon. the Post-Master General, in sending an immediate account of every robbery that comes to their knowledge, with the best description of the offenders, the whole state of criminal matters that arise within the course of the week, will be contained in this Paper, the Public Advertiser, and the Gazetteer, to which therefore we refer Pawnbrokers, Silver-Smiths, Dealers in Cloaths, and Horse Dealers, to prevent their buying or receiving stolen goods or horses; for as it is natural for offenders who escape justice in the country to fly towards London for shelter, such occurrences, together with those that arise in town, are advertised in these two daily papers; and as it is also as common for offenders, who escape justice in this metropolis, to fly into the country or shelter, these occurrences are constantly advertised in the HUE and CRY: by these reciprocal methods escapes must be rendered difficult, the evil-disposed deterred from involving themselves and families in distress; the number of capital offenders lessened, and the lives of many of his Majesty's subjects thereby happily saved, to the joy of humanity, and the honour of civil policy.